

- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 8-263370, and patent family member U.S. Patent No. 5,845,309.
- (3) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 6-019797, and patent family members U.S. Patent No. 5,353,425 and European Patent Application No. EP 0568221.
- (4) International Patent Application Publication No. WO 2002-008911.
- (5) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 4-137053.
- (6) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 4-100158.

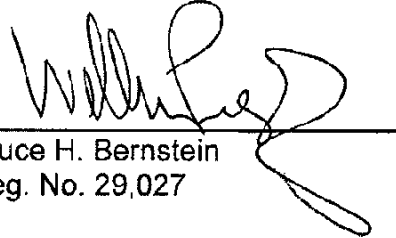
The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the claims of the International Application by the International Examiner are set forth in the International Preliminary Report on Patentability. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the same with respect to the claims of the present application.

Applicants note that all of the above-noted documents were previously cited (and copies supplied as required) in the Information Disclosure Statement that was filed on August 4, 2006, and thus, copies of these documents are not provided herewith. Also, Applicants note that no fee or certification is required to ensure consideration of these materials, as they were already submitted, as well as because no action on the merits has been issued in the present application.

P29850.A02

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tetsuya TANAKA et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Pieprz', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looping 'P' and a long, sweeping tail.

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